# THE DEATHSAND BURIAL OF JESUS.

AIM:- The power of Jesus' death as shown in the burial of of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

C.I. Joseph and Nicodemus seeing Jesus in death, give His body an honorable burial.

INTRO:- No sun dispels the darkness of Gethsemene night which but blends into the blackness of a cloud-choked sky. Gathering together the criminal hatred of the authorities, the angered excitement of the multitudes, the diabolical jeerings of the lawless mob, the denials of a pledged friend, the despair of crushed disciples, and the wails of loving but broken hearts, Nature engulfs them in the agonies of the Crucified One, and, with this alchemy of inky heaviness, presses down her murky lowering over all, transforming Jerusalem into a gigantic grotto of gloom, whose moving forms gasp in awe and grope in terror. With a loud cry that shakes the earth and rends the veil of the Temple, Jesus gives up the ghost. The Son of God and of Man, the Lover of God and of Humanity, the Friend of sinners and the Hope of a hopeless world, hangs upon the Cross dead!

The Burial by Joseph and Nicodemus, its significance?

I. <u>The attitude of Joseph and Nicodemus toward Jesus before His death.</u>

1. Liberal-minded and sincere.

2. Bus still from the theological and religious view-point of Pharisaism--a party attitude.

II. <u>Their attitude toward Jesus in His death.</u>

1. What had this man done to deserve such a terrible and shameful death?

2. What had brot about His death?

> The evil will of men, in the power and name of religion and justice, but in the interest of their respective part for selfish ends--caused the death of Jesus.

3. Why did Jesus choose death rather than the head of a new party by which He could have saved himself?

> His insight that had given an unanswerable answer to every caviller and an adequate reply to every questioner; His eloquence which drew the multitudes; His indignation which quelled the violent and overawed the superstitious--these would have enabled Him to form, of the noblest in the state, a powerful faction.

> "Which of us, leading a cause", they reasoned," which h he believed to be the cause of truth against falsehood of the humble against the proud, of the poor against oppression--which of us, leading such a cause, and having it in his power to arouse a party in the state and arm it with the strength of a invincible enthu-

siasm, reinforcing it with the ever-triumphant hosts of God, which of us would choose to suffer repulse, contumely, and the apparent extinction of the cause he championed, rather than break the law of Love and offer battle to his brothers in thot or word or deed?"

Ah, this is why Jesus chose to die rather than engage in party strife. In unity with God and identified with humanity how could He war against His brothers and be loyal to God's Truth and Love? He must, therefore, suffer death at the hands of His enemies, knowing that God's Love expressed in the power of such forgiveness would ultimately conquer His bitterest foes.

III. Joseph and Nicodemus transformed by the death of Christ.

1. They rise above their pharisaism and above the letter of the Law, in heroic response to the Truth and Love of their departed Christ, and give Him a kingly burial.

2. They unite with the two Mary's in the burial ministrations

CONCLU:-

1. The death of Jesus shows us the destructive power of man's Evil Will, as it manifests itself in warfare and strife, in gealousies and hatreds, in factional differences and and selfish purposes.

2. The death of Christ shows us the saving power of God's Forgiving Love.

3. The Death of Christ calls us to bury our differences in the unity of the Christ-Spirit.

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